

What is Claimed is:

1 1. A stabilized window structure comprising
2 a window frame circumscribing an opening entirely or substantially entirely devoid
3 of glass so as to present a sizable hole;
4 a patch removably secured over said window frame to cover said opening in its
5 entirety; and
6 a body of unifying material disposed over and bonded to said patch to form a
7 cohesive mass therewith, said cohesive mass being removable from said window frame.

1 2. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said patch comprises
2 a plurality of patch members disposed over respective portions of said opening with
3 adjacent ones of said plurality of patch members in overlapping arrangement with one
4 another.

1 3. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said patch
2 comprises a plurality of patch members disposed over respective portions of said opening
3 with adjacent ones of said plurality of patch members juxtaposed to one another to form
4 a seam therebetween, and said body of unifying material forms a bond at said seam.

1 4. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said patch is
2 adhesively secured to said window frame.

1 5. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 1 and further including one or
2 more mechanical securing devices removably securing said patch to said window frame.

1 6. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 4 wherein said patch has an
2 adhesive backing for adhesively securing said patch to said window frame.

1 7. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 4 and further including a
2 quantity of said unifying material disposed between said window frame and said patch for
3 adhesively securing said patch to said window frame.

1 8. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 4 and further including a
2 quantity of said unifying material disposed between said patch and any glass remaining in
3 said opening for adhesively securing said patch to said glass.

1 9. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 4 and further including a release
2 element disposed between said window frame and said cohesive mass to facilitate removal
3 of said cohesive mass from said window frame.

1 10. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said unifying
2 material is a polymeric material.

1 11. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 10 wherein said unifying
2 material is a polymeric foam.

1 12. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said patch has an
2 exterior side and an interior side and said body of unifying material is disposed over at
3 least one of said exterior side or said interior side.

1 13. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 12 wherein said body of unifying
2 material covers said at least one of said exterior side or said interior side in its entirety.

1 14. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 1 and further including at least
2 one grasping member attached to said cohesive mass.

1 15. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 3 wherein each of said patch
2 members comprises a pre-formed panel made of polymeric foam.

1 16. A method of stabilizing a window structure having a window frame
2 circumscribing an opening entirely or substantially entirely devoid of glass so as to present
3 a sizable hole, said method comprising the steps of:

4 removably securing a patch over the window frame so as to cover the opening in
5 its entirety;

6 applying a body of unifying material over the patch;

7 bonding the unifying material to the patch to form a cohesive mass therewith; and
8 leaving the cohesive mass in place for a desired length of time to stabilize the
9 window structure.

1 17. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 step of removably securing includes adhesively securing the patch to the window frame.

1 18. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 17 and further
2 including, prior to said step of adhesively securing, the step of applying a release element
3 over the window frame.

1 19. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 17 wherein said
2 step of adhesively securing includes securing the patch to the window frame via an
3 adhesive backing on the patch.

1 20. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 17 wherein said
2 step of adhesively securing includes the steps of applying a quantity of the unifying
3 material to the window frame and contacting the patch with the quantity of unifying
4 material.

1 21. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 17 wherein said
2 step of adhesively securing includes the steps of applying a quantity of the unifying

3 material to any glass present in the opening and contacting the patch with the quantity of
4 unifying material.

1 22. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 step of removably securing includes attaching the patch to one or more mechanical
3 securing devices and removably securing the one or more securing devices to the window
4 frame.

1 23. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 step of removably securing includes removably securing a plurality of patch members to
3 the window frame with each patch member covering a portion of the opening.

1 24. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 23 wherein said
2 step of removably securing includes overlapping adjacent ones of the plurality of patch
3 members.

1 25. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 23 wherein said
2 step of removably securing includes juxtaposing adjacent ones of the plurality of patch
3 members to define a seam therebetween, said step of applying includes applying the
4 unifying material over the seam, and said step of bonding includes forming a bond at the
5 seam.

1 26. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 step of applying includes covering at least one of an exterior side or an interior side of the
3 patch in its entirety with the body of unifying material.

1 27. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 step of applying includes applying the unifying material in fluid form and said step of
3 bonding includes allowing the unifying material to cure.

1 28. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 16 and further
2 including the step of attaching at least one grasping member to the cohesive mass.

1 29. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 16 and further
2 including, subsequent to said step of leaving, the step of removing the cohesive mass from
3 the window frame.

1 30. A stabilized window structure comprising:
2 a window frame circumscribing an opening entirely or substantially entirely devoid
3 of glass so as to present a sizable hole; and
4 a pre-formed panel of polymeric foam material removably secured over said
5 window frame to cover said opening in its entirety.

1 31. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 30 wherein said panel is
2 adhesively secured to said window frame.

1 32. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 31 and further including a
2 release element disposed between said window frame and said panel to facilitate removal
3 of said panel from said window frame.

1 33. A stabilized window structure as recited in claim 30 and further including one
2 or more mechanical securing devices removably securing said panel to said window frame.

1 34. A method of stabilizing a window structure having a window frame
2 circumscribing an opening entirely or substantially entirely devoid of glass so as to present
3 a sizable hole, said method comprising the steps of

4 removably securing a pre-formed panel of polymeric foam material over the window
5 frame to cover the opening in its entirety; and

6 leaving the panel in place for a desired length of time to stabilize the window
7 structure.

1 35. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 34 wherein said
2 step of removably securing includes adhesively securing the panel to the window frame.

1 36. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 35 and further
2 including, prior to said step of removably securing, the step of applying a release element
3 to the window frame.

1 37. A method of stabilizing a window structure as recited in claim 34 wherein said
2 step of removably securing includes securing the panel to the window frame with one or
3 more mechanical securing devices.

1 38. A method of removing a shattered window pane disposed in a window frame
2 and having one or more cracks dividing the window pane into a plurality of separate,
3 disconnected window pane sections, said method comprising the steps of

4 applying a body of unifying material to at least one of an exterior surface or an
5 interior surface of each window pane section leaving the one or more cracks devoid of the
6 unifying material;

7 bonding the unifying material to each window pane section to form a cohesive mass
8 for each window pane section including the body of unifying material and the window pane
9 section bonded thereto; and

10 removing the cohesive masses from the window frame separately from one another.

1 39. A method of removing a shattered window pane as recited in claim 38 wherein
2 said step of applying includes applying a layer of polymeric foam to each window pane
3 section.

1 40. A method of removing a shattered window pane as recited in claim 39 wherein
2 said step of applying includes applying the polymeric foam in fluidic form and said step of
3 bonding includes allowing the unifying material to cure.

1 41. A method of removing a shattered window pane as recited in claim 38 and
2 further including, prior to said step of removing, the step of attaching at least one grasping
3 member to each cohesive mass to facilitate said step of removing.

1 42. A method of removing a shattered window pane as recited in claim 38 wherein
2 said step of applying includes leaving a peripheral border around each body of unifying
3 material at which the unifying material is not applied to the corresponding window section.

1 43. A method of removing window pane shards from a track of a window structure,
2 said method comprising the steps of
3 applying a body of unifying material over the shards;
4 bonding the unifying material to the shards to form a cohesive mass including the
5 body of unifying material and the shards bonded thereto; and
6 removing the shards from the track by withdrawing the cohesive mass away from
7 the track such that the shards are removed from the track as the cohesive mass is
8 withdrawn.

1 44. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 43 wherein said
2 step of applying includes applying the body of unifying material as a strip of unifying
3 material extending along the track.

1 45. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 43 wherein said
2 step of applying includes applying a polymeric foam unifying material.

1 46. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 45 wherein said
2 step of applying includes applying the polymeric foam unifying material in fluidic form and
3 said step of bonding includes allowing the polymeric foam unifying material to cure.

1 47. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 44 wherein said
2 step of removing includes pulling an end of the strip of unifying material to withdraw the
3 strip of unifying material away from the track .

1 48. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 43 wherein
2 said step of removing includes removing the shards as part of a single cohesive mass.

1 49. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 43 wherein
2 said step of removing includes removing the shards as a plurality of pieces of the cohesive
3 mass.

1 50. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 43 wherein
2 said step of applying includes applying the unifying material as a plurality of disconnected
3 strips of unifying material extending along the track, said step of bonding includes bonding
4 the unifying material to the shards to form a cohesive mass for each strip, and said step
5 of removing includes withdrawing the cohesive masses away from the track separately
6 from one another.

1 51. A method of removing window pane shards as recited in claim 43 wherein
2 said step of removing includes inserting a tool into the track to separate the shards from
3 the track.